



eCOMMONS

Loyola University Chicago  
**Loyola eCommons**

---

Master's Theses

Theses and Dissertations

---

1955

# A Study of Employed Children in Families Receiving Aid to Dependent Children

Willa Elizabeth Randle

*Loyola University Chicago*

---

## Recommended Citation

Randle, Willa Elizabeth, "A Study of Employed Children in Families Receiving Aid to Dependent Children" (1955). *Master's Theses*. Paper 1222.

[http://ecommons.luc.edu/luc\\_theses/1222](http://ecommons.luc.edu/luc_theses/1222)

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Theses and Dissertations at Loyola eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Master's Theses by an authorized administrator of Loyola eCommons. For more information, please contact [ecommons@luc.edu](mailto:ecommons@luc.edu).



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/).

Copyright © 1955 Willa Elizabeth Randle

A STUDY OF EMPLOYED CHILDREN  
IN FAMILIES RECEIVING AID  
TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN

by

Willa Elizabeth Randle

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the School of Social Work  
of Loyola University in Partial Fulfillment of  
the Requirements for the Degree of  
Master of Social Work

February

1955

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
<p>I. INTRODUCTION . . . . .</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Purpose--Scope--Source--Method--The ADC Program in Cook County Department of Welfare--Plan of Presentation of the study.</p>	1
<p>II. THE HOME . . . . .</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">An analysis of statistical data obtained from the schedule pertaining to the homes--a discussion of factors which may have influenced the child's decision to leave the home or to remain at home.</p>	7
<p>III. EMPLOYMENT . . . . .</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">An analysis of statistical data pertaining to the employed child in both groups of homes--a discussion of possible differences between the two groups which might point out the reasons why some children departed from home.</p>	20
<p>IV. REASONS GIVEN FOR LEAVING HOME . . . . .</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">What part has the contribution played in the employed child's decision to leave home prematurely?--An analysis of verbalized reasons for leaving the home and an analysis of other factors which may have been influential in the child's decision to leave the home.</p>	27
<p>V. CONCLUSIONS . . . . .</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Summary of the reasons why the employed child left home --the effect of the contribution plan on the child's decision to leave home.</p>	31
<p>BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .</p>	36

APPENDIX I . . . . .

37

APPENDIX II . . . . .

40

# LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I. NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE HOME . . . . .	8
II. NUMBER OF BEDROOMS IN THE HOME . . . . .	9
III. TYPE OF HOME . . . . .	11
IV. NATURAL AND HALF SIBLINGS OF EMPLOYED CHILD . . .	12
V. NUMBER OF YEARS FAMILY HAS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE . .	14
VI. REASON FOR GRANT . . . . .	15
VII. RELATIONSHIP OF EMPLOYED CHILD TO GRANTEE . . . .	16
VIII. AGE OF GRANTEE . . . . .	17
IX. AGES AT THE BEGINNING OF FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT . .	20
X. SCHOOL GRADES COMPLETED . . . . .	21
XI. LENGTH OF FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT . . . . .	22
XII. INCOME . . . . .	24
XIII. REASONS FOR LEAVING HOME . . . . .	27

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### Purpose:

The purpose of this study is to determine the reasons why employed children in families receiving Aid to Dependent Children leave home. The children in the study are between sixteen and eighteen years of age and are fully employed. Although the focus is on children who left the home, the fully employed who remain in the home are included in the study.

This study is an outgrowth of criticisms of some members of the community who felt that the policy of the Cook County Department of Welfare regarding the budgeting of earnings of ineligible employed children in Aid to Dependent Children families was fostering the premature departure of these children from home and was defeating its efforts to preserve the family unity.

The study should provide answers to two questions:

1. Why did the children leave the home prematurely?
2. What differences could be found between the group which left the home and the group which remained at home?

#### Scope of the Study:

This study was comprised of those Aid to Dependent Children

cases which were active with Cook County Department of Welfare from October, 1953 through February, 1954. During this period, there were 12,613 cases active with the Cook County Department of Welfare. The study was limited to two hundred of these cases, which had all of the following characteristics: the children must have been ineligible at the time of this study for Aid to Dependent Children; must have been recipients at one time; must have been at least sixteen years of age but must not have reached their nineteenth birthday as of October 1, 1953; must have remained or departed from home between these ages, and must have been fully employed.

#### Source of the Study:

The Aid to Dependent Children case records of the six District Offices of the Cook County Department of Welfare located in Chicago Illinois were used as the principal source.

The Public Assistance Code of Illinois and the Public Assistance Manual of Policy and Procedure were used regarding the Aid to Dependent Children Program.

#### Method of the Study:

This study was made by five students enrolled in the Graduate School of Social Work at Loyola University. In October, 1953, the group drafted a schedule which was tested on a few cases at the Northern Office of the Cook County Department of Welfare. After revisions were made, the final schedule was used for recording all raw data.

At the beginning of the study, the group planned to gather data from as many offices as possible in a limited time. At the Northern Office, the examination of each record by the group proved to be a lengthy process. This close inspection was necessary to determine the eligible cases for the study. Some of the case records were not available although they were active and the file department was used extensively by the group in helping to locate these records. Four hundred and fifty cases were examined and only twenty-seven of these were found to be eligible for the study.

After a conference between the thesis advisor and the District Office Supervisor, a new method of assembling the records was introduced. A memorandum was sent to each supervising caseworker who enlisted the aid of the caseworkers in selecting all cases which might be eligible for the study. This new method assisted in quickening the pace of the study to such an extent that all six District Offices were visited.

The two hundred cases which were applicable to the study were divided among the five members of the study group. Each member reported on twenty children who departed from home and twenty children who remained at home. The group who departed from home was known as Group A and the group who remained at home was known as Group B. Aid to Dependent Children will be referred to as ADC. The ADC Program in Cook County Department of Welfare:

The Cook County Department of Welfare is the agency which



administers the ADC within the county as designated by the Illinois Public Aid Commission. The Social Security Act of 1935 authorized grants to states for various programs including Public Assistance, one division of which is the ADC Program. According to the Public Assistance Code of Illinois, "The maintenance of the family unit shall be a principal consideration in the administration of this Code, and all public assistance policies shall be formulated and administered with the purpose of strengthening the family unit."<sup>1</sup>

It has been speculated that the basic philosophy of the program has become paradoxical when one considers the number of children who leave home between the ages of sixteen and eighteen. The current policy regarding contributions of ineligible children in ADC families was said to be so stringent that the children were seeking economic satisfactions outside the home and that the family was deprived of its natural privilege to serve as a protective unit for its members. According to the Public Assistance Manual of Policy and Procedure, "Older children who are still a part of the ADC family unit, that is, those who have not established an independent existence away from home, are expected to contribute toward meeting the family needs. All their needs, therefore, are included in the family plan, and their total net income budgeted

---

<sup>1</sup>Illinois Public Aid Commission, The Public Assistance Code of Illinois and Related Laws Affecting Public Aid, 1949-51, Article I, Sec. 436-1, Paragraph 2.

against the total needs of the family."<sup>2</sup>

Under this policy, the child who attended school could be included in the ADC grant until he reached his eighteenth birthday. If, at sixteen years of age, he did not attend school, he was expected to work and contribute his entire earnings toward the support of the family members who were included in the grant. An allowance for the employed child was formulated by the agency with consideration given to his basic needs.

It was felt by many people that the allowance for the employed child provided little incentive for him to remain at home and retain his role in the family. The allowance seemed to thwart the efforts of the child in elevating his standards and he was forced to remain in a climate which fostered deprivation or to separate himself from his family.

On January 29, 1954, the Illinois Public Aid Commission revised this policy for budgeting the earnings of the ineligible child. The first twenty-five dollars of his take home pay and twenty per cent of the remainder are exempt from use by the family. His share in the household expenses is the same and must be taken from the nonexempt portion of his wages. Any excess earnings will be applied toward the needs of the family. The study is based on the original policy of the Illinois Public Aid Commission.

---

<sup>2</sup>Public Assistance Manual of Policy and Procedure, Cook County Department of Welfare.

### Plan of Presentation:

This study contains five chapters.

Chapter Two, The Home, contains a study of factors within the home which may have influenced the child's decision to leave or to remain in the home,

Chapter Three, Employment, compares factors which might be characteristic of the two groups of children, and which might have been instrumental in the employed child's decision to leave the home.

Chapter Four, Reasons Given For Leaving Home, discusses the stated reasons for the child's leaving home, The effect of the ADC contribution plan is discussed.

Chapter Five, Conclusions, summarizes the reasons why the employed child left the home and findings of the study in reference to the contribution plan as a means of preserving the unity of the family.

## CHAPTER II

### THE HOME

This chapter deals with an analysis of the statistical data obtained from the schedule pertaining to the homes from which the children of both groups came. The purpose is to determine whether any factors within the home may have influenced the child's decision to leave the home or to remain at home.

The following factors were studied:

1. Number of people in the home
2. Number of bedrooms in the home
3. Type of home
4. Number of natural and half siblings of the employed child
5. Number of years family has received public assistance
6. Reason for grant
7. Relationship of employed child to grantee
8. Age of grantee

Each of these factors will be discussed in the following paragraphs.

Number of People in the Home:

The following table shows the number of people in the homes of the families of the children in both groups.

TABLE I  
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE HOME

Number of people	Group A	Group B
1-3	0	1
4-6	10	8
7-9	8	8
10-12	1	3
13-15	1	0
Total	20	20

There was only a shade of difference in the number of people in the homes of the two groups. In both groups, the largest number of homes were comprised of between four and nine people. In both groups, there incidents of people in the home who were not eligible to be included in the ADC grant. In Group A, there were two incidents of six people living in the home where one was not included in the grant; one incident of seven people in the home where three people were not included in the grant and one incident where there were fifteen people in the home, ten of whom were not in the ADC grant. In each incident, those not included in the grant were relatives over eighteen and not fully employed.

In Group B, there was one incident where seven people lived in the home and two were not included in the ADC grant and one incident where eight people lived in the home and five were not included in the grant. In both incidents, those not included in the grant were relatives who were self supporting. This shows that those people in the homes of Group A who were over eighteen and not fully employed, might have been a partial reason for the children in this group to leave home.

Number of Bedrooms in the Home:

A complete description of the living arrangements in the home was not usually given in the case records. A study was made of the number of bedrooms in the home so that the comparison of the number of people could be made with the amount of sleeping space. It was conjectured that the comfort or lack of comfort in the home might have some bearing on the children's leaving the home prematurely.

TABLE II

NUMBER OF BEDROOMS IN THE HOME

Number of Bedrooms	Group A	Group B
1	3	4
2	12	13
3	4	2
4	1	1
Total	20	20

The difference in the number of rooms is negligible. The largest number of homes in each group contained two bedrooms. The home with three people in Group B had two bedrooms.

Where there were between four and six people in the home in Group A, seven had two bedrooms and three had one bedrooms. Where there were between four and six people in the home in Group B, three had one bedroom and five had two bedrooms.

Where there were between seven and nine people in the home in Group A, five had two bedrooms and three had three bedrooms. Where there were between seven and nine people in the home in Group B, one had one bedroom, five had two bedrooms and two had three bedrooms. The home in Group A with twelve persons had three bedrooms. Where there were between ten and twelve people in the home in Group B, two homes had two bedrooms and one had four bedrooms. The home with fifteen people in Group A had four bedrooms. Thus, the number of bedrooms does not explain the reason why children in Group A left the home, It can be conjectured that although there was more bedroom space for the Group A homes, there may have been other factors which affected the family relationships to a greater extent.

#### Type of Home:

The type of home was considered an influential factor in studying the two groups. The homes were classified as follows: single unit; two-four unit; apartment house of five or more rooms; public housing project, and other. Table III shows the types of

homes in the two groups. Public housing project will not be included because this type was not found in the two groups.

TABLE III  
TYPE OF HOME

Type of home	Group A	Group B
Single unit	0	3
Two-four	13	17
Apartment house	7	0
Total	20	20

Most of the group lived in two-four units. The home in Group B where there were three people was a two-four unit. Where there were four to six people in the home, Group A had eight two-four units and two apartment houses while Group B had eight two-four units. Where there were between seven and nine people in the home, Group A had five two-four units and three apartment houses while Group B had two single units and six two-four units. The home in Group A which was comprised of between ten and twelve people was an apartment house. In Group B, these homes were two two-four units and one single unit. The home in Group A with fifteen people was an apartment house. The number of people per unit in Group A is smaller than that of Group B and may be considered a difference between the two groups although it does not explain the reasons why the children in Group A left the home. Perhaps,



the type of unit in Group A homes was not as important as other factors in the home.

Number of Natural and Half Siblings  
of the Employed Child:

The family composition was suggested as having significance in the child's decision to leave home. The number of natural and half siblings was examined to determine the association.

TABLE IV

NATURAL AND HALF SIBLINGS OF EMPLOYED CHILD

Siblings	Group A	Group B
<u>Natural Siblings</u>		
0	2	6
1	2	2
2	2	2
3	5	1
4	2	3
5	5	2
6	2	3
7	0	1
8	1	1
9	0	1
10	1	0
Total	84	73

TABLE IV continued  
NATURAL AND HALF SIBLINGS OF EMPLOYED CHILD

Siblings	Group A	Group B
<u>Half Siblings</u>		
0	16	11
1	0	4
2	1	0
3	0	2
4	2	3
5	0	0
6	0	0
7	1	0
Total	17	22

Two in Group A and six in Group B had no natural siblings. It was felt that kinship of the members of the family might bring out the reason for some children to leave the home. There were eighty-four natural siblings in the twenty Group A homes and seventy-three natural siblings in the twenty Group B homes. The close relationship of the siblings seemed to be a negative factor in the Group A homes for purposes of the study. There may have been related factors which affected the ties which otherwise would have been strong.

There was a smaller number of half siblings in Group A than in Group B. Although the schedule made no provision for gathering

information which would explain this fact, a speculation can be made that children in Group A with a larger number of natural siblings where ties may not have been affectional, may have resented more strongly the presence of half siblings in the home more than the children in Group B. If this speculation is true, then, coupled with other areas of friction, there was reason for children in Group A to leave their homes prematurely.

Number of Years Family Has Received Public Assistance:

The following table illustrates the number of years each of the families in both groups received public assistance.

TABLE V

NUMBER OF YEARS FAMILY HAS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE

Number of years	Group A	Group B
1-3	2	2
4-6	3	4
7-9	5	5
10-12	10	9
Total	20	20

It is significant that almost one-half the group was subjected to many years of subsistence at a marginal level. This usually denoted loss of self respect and lack of capacity to mobilize one's resources. The length of the dependency period bears out the conviction that there must have been weaknesses in the Group A

homes that were not prevalent in the Group B homes. Further inspection of the data might assist in articulating these weaknesses.

Reason for Grant:

The following table shows the reasons for granting Public Assistance to the families in both groups.

TABLE VI  
REASON FOR GRANT

Reason for grant	Group A	Group B
Father deceased	5	3
Mother deceased	0	1
Father deserted	5	6
Father incapacitated	3	3
Parents separated	3	4
Parents divorced	2	2
Mother unmarried	2	1
Total	20	20

Table VI does not contribute much toward explaining why children in Group A left the home. In reviewing the data for natural reasons why one or both parents would not be in the home--father deceased, mother deceased and father incapacitated--the results were almost equal. There was only one grandmother and the grandson remained in the home. In homes where the reasons were deemed unnatural--father deserted, parents separated, parents divorced,

mother unmarried - there was a slight difference in figures.

It can be conjectured that although there were three father persons in the homes of both groups, there may have been persons acting as substitute fathers who lived in or near the homes of children in Group B and helped to preserve the family unity. However, the figures show that reasons for the grant do not explain why children in Group A left the home.

Relationship of Employed Child to Grantee:

The grantee was an adult who bore some relationship to the employed child. In the two groups, the employed child was a son, grandson or daughter.

TABLE VII

RELATIONSHIP OF EMPLOYED CHILD TO GRANTEE

Relationship	Group A	Group B
Son	11	11
Daughter	9	8
Grandson	0	1
Total	20	20

It was conjectured that the distance of the relationship of the employed child to the grantee might have some bearing on the child's leaving the home. In only one case was the relationship removed from parent and child. This child was a grandson in Group B. Hence, the relationships were on equal level in both groups. This

comparison does not point up the reasons for Group A to leave the home.

### Race and Religion:

Twenty-seven of the forty children are Negroes and fourteen of these are of Protestant faith. Eleven of the children are White and seven of these are of the Catholic faith. The religion of eighteen children and the race of two children are not recorded in the case record. These small samples of race and religion were not analyzed because of the preponderance of one race and the number of homes in which there was no information concerning religion.

### Age of Grantee:

The following table illustrates the age of the grantee in the families of the children in both groups.

TABLE VIII  
AGE OF GRANTEE

Age in years	Group A	Group B
31-35	3	7
36-40	3	5
41-45	8	3
46-50	4	1
51-55	2	1
56-60	0	3
Total	20	20

The age of the grantee was considered an influential factor in comparison with the ages of the children in the two groups. Over one-half the grantees in Group A were between forty-one and fifty while over one-half the grantees in Group B were between thirty-one and forty years of age. The fact that the children tended to leave the homes where the grantees were older and hopefully more emotionally mature, is paradoxical. This suggests that familial relationships may have been affected by variance in thinking of the two generations. It is possible that the younger mothers in Group B might have been able to understand the needs of the children. Thus, the age of the grantee can be considered an influential factor in the child's decision to leave the home.

Summary:

The study pertaining to the homes of both groups indicates that the premature departure of children in Group A may have been caused totally or partially by these findings:

1. The age of the grantee
2. The presence of siblings - natural and half
3. The presence of relatives who were over eighteen and not fully employed.

Where the grantee was a younger person, the child tended to remain in the home. It is possible that grantees in these cases were more understanding because they were young enough to recall their own conflicts during this age.

Confusion around other factors in the home may have been

significant in the Group A children's resentment of siblings in the home. There was a larger number of natural siblings in these homes and the affectional ties which one would expect to find in such close relationships was lacking. The presence of half siblings in these homes where there were natural siblings may have been a source of further irritation.

The presence of adult relatives in Group A homes who were not fully employed served to emphasize the presence of adult relatives in Group B homes who were fully employed. The presence of self-supporting adults in the home may have set a pattern of unity in Group B homes.



## CHAPTER III

### EMPLOYMENT

The statistical data pertaining to the employment of the children in both groups will be discussed in this chapter. The focus will be on differences between the two groups, with the hope that the analysis might point out the reasons why some children in ADC families departed from home.

#### Ages at the Beginning of Employment:

The following table shows the ages at which children in both groups began their full time employment.

TABLE IX  
AGES AT THE BEGINNING OF  
FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT

Age	Group A	Group B
16	4	5
17	14	13
18	2	2
Total	20	20

Most of the children in both groups began their full time

employment at the age of seventeen. An almost equal number began at sixteen and an equal number began at eighteen years of age. These figures show very little difference in the ages in the two groups at the beginning of full time employment.

Number of School Grades Completed:

Table XI illustrates the number of school grades which the children completed.

TABLE X.  
SCHOOL GRADES COMPLETED

School grade	Group A	Group B
Elementary	4	2
One year high	1	2
Two years high	4	0
Three years high	5	7
Four years high	5	7
Not recorded	1	2
Total	20	20

Table X shows that the majority of the children in both groups went as far as the third year in high school. However, there were nine children in Group A who did not enter the third year while only four in Group B did not enter the third year. The schedule did not provide for gathering information on significant facts which would have explained this difference. The writer noted

that the nine children in Group A lived in homes where there were several natural and half siblings and they also voiced strong objections to the contribution plan. No significant facts could be found about the four children in Group B for purposes of the study. These findings seem to suggest that the educational achievement in Group A was lower than that of Group B. Hence, the number of school grades completed might be considered a differential factor in the two groups.

Length of Full Time Employment:

There were periods of unemployment and part time employment in both groups. Only the full time employment periods were studied.

The following table illustrates the number of months the children in both groups were employed between sixteen and eighteen years of age.

TABLE XI  
LENGTH OF FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT

Number of months	Group A	Group B
Less than 1	1	8
1-5	10	5
6-10	3	3
11-15	4	1
16-20	1	2
20-24	1	1
Total	20	20

One-half the children in Group A were employed full time between one and five months before leaving the home. Nineteen children in this group were employed full time between one and twenty months while twelve children in Group B were employed for this length of time between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years of age. Thus, the employment period of Group A is longer than that of Group B and can be considered a contributing factor to the decision of Group A to leave the home prematurely. There seems to be a close relation between the shorter period of school attendance and longer employment period in Group A. It is possible that these children may have become discouraged when circumstances forced them to continue full time employment and prevented further school attendance. The dim prospect of remaining at home, and having to work full time must have been a reason for children in Group A to leave the home.

Income:

The amount of income was studied for possible differences between the two groups and for reasons why children in Group A left the home.

TABLE XII  
INCOME

Income per month	Group A	Group B
\$0-100.	1	2
101-150.	8	8
151-200.	7	8
201-250.	2	1
251-300.	1	0
Not recorded	1	1
Total	20	20

There seems to be no appreciable difference in the income of the two groups of children. Most of the children in both groups earned between \$101.00 and \$200.00. The three children in Group A who earned between \$201.00 and \$300.00 stated explicitly that they wanted to save money. They probably felt that their income was sufficient to leave the home and make a voluntary contribution to the family. Only one child in Group B earned more than \$200.00 per month. The findings in this small sample suggest that the child who earned the highest income tended to feel that he could elevate his standard of living by leaving the family.

Amount of Income Contributed:

The amount of contributions of most of the children was not stated explicitly in the case record. However, the records showed

that no child in Group A contributed his total income toward the family type budget which was in existence at the time the study began. According to the family plan type budget, the child's total earnings were budgeted with allowable deductions for his stipulated needs. In Group B homes, where the amount of the contributions was stated in the record, it was noted that the grantees usually accepted the contribution which the child gave and made no complaint to the caseworker. Two children in Group B voiced objections to the contribution plan to their grantees but were able to remain in their homes.

Although very few of the contributions met the requirements of the Cook County Department of Welfare, the figures show that the children in Group A objected to the existent contribution plan and that friction which seemed to be prevalent was intensified when the family suffered the loss of income through the budget plan.

#### Summary:

The findings in the chapter which was focused on the differences between the two groups of children revealed the following points of significance:

1. The children who had the lowest educational achievement tended to leave home prematurely. Almost one-half the children in Group A did not enter the third year of high school. This might be accounted for by the presence of natural and half siblings in these homes where there were also strong objections to the contribution plan. The children who entered the third year of

high school remained in their homes. The existent conflicts in the Group A homes served as deterrents to the educational achievement of these children.

2. The full time employment period of Group A was longer than that in Group B. The same circumstances in the home which prevented school attendance must have forced the children to face the problem of working full time for a long consistent period with little hope of being able to work part time or being unemployed.

3. Although there was very little difference in the amount of income of the two groups, it was found that the child in Group A who earned the highest income expressed a desire to raise his standard of living and felt that leaving the home was the only solution. The child in Group B who earned a salary which was the equivalent of the highest in Group A contributed a great part of his earnings and remained in his home.

4. Although none of the contributions met the requirements of the Cook County Welfare Department, the grantee in Group B usually accepted the contribution without complaining to the caseworker. Friction developed in the Group A homes when the amount of the actual contribution was not commensurate with the deduction of the budget plan.

## CHAPTER IV

### REASONS GIVEN FOR LEAVING HOME

The foregoing chapters have pointed out several factors which, totally or partially, seem to be influential in the decision of the child in Group A. This chapter presents the reasons given for leaving home as they are recorded in the case records.

#### Reasons:

The reasons given by children in Group A for leaving their homes prematurely were quoted in the case record as the grantee or the child discussed them with the caseworker. Although underlying causative factors could be deduced from the explicitly given reasons, this study has limited itself only to the latter.

The following is a tabulation of the stated reasons given to the caseworker by the child or the grantee in Group A.

TABLE XII

#### REASONS FOR LEAVING HOME

<u>Reasons for leaving</u>	<u>Departed child</u>
Objection to contribution plan . . . . .	14
Marriage . . . . .	4
Not recorded . . . . .	1
Total . . . . .	20



Most of the children in Group A objected to the contribution plan. The child who left the home for military service objected to the contribution plan soon after he began employment, but did not leave the home until he was drafted into military service. Those who remained in the home until they were married gave no objection to the contribution plan.

Reasons for Objection to Contribution Plan:

The reasons for the objections of fourteen children in Group A are illustrated by the following quotes from the case record:

1. "He did not want the responsibility of supporting his mother's family."
2. "He did not want to live in the mother's home and cause a hardship on her."
3. "She wanted to save money to get married."
4. "He felt that his presence in the home was penalizing to the family. He had his own life to live and he needed money for recreation and a musical education."
5. "He did not feel that all his earnings should be budgeted."
6. "He wanted to save money."
7. "He planned to get married and could not afford to put all his earnings in the home. He did not want the grant to be decreased."
8. "He had plans that all involved money. He felt that the agency was forcing him to take care of his mother and siblings."

He informed the caseworker that he would move and continue the contact to let the agency know where he could be found."

9. "He did not want to conform to the agency policy. He leaves his clothes in the home because he wants to be close to his mother."

10. "He resented having his entire salary budgeted. He felt that he would be deprived of many things he needed."

11. "He preferred leaving home to contributing to the family."

12. "He preferred moving out the home rather than be included in the budget."

13. "She was just tired of caring for the family. She planned to marry and did not want all those burdens on her. She worked at night and it was hard for her to sleep because of the noise of the siblings."

14. "Mother could not see the reason why the agency would want to take her daughter's earnings."

It was significant that each of the eleven sons in Group A gave objections to the contribution plan. Since there was no father in these homes, it can be conjectured that these sons objected to assuming the roles which they felt should have been assumed by their own fathers or possibly by their mothers. Hostility toward both parents and toward siblings manifested itself through objection to the contribution plan. The son might have felt that where there were several half siblings, the fathers of

these siblings should have assumed the total responsibility. The resentment toward the mother for allowing the father to shirk his responsibility might have been a factor in the objection to the contribution plan.

Summary:

The reasons given in the case record for the child's leaving home show clearly that with due consideration to other causative factors, the objection to the contribution plan was the preponderant reason. The child who entered military service objected to the plan but did not state the objection as his reason for leaving the home. There was no objection to the plan in the cases of the four children who left the home after marriage. Of the fourteen children who verbalized objections to the contribution plan, eleven of these were sons of the grantee and there were no father persons in the homes. It was conjectured that being forced into the role of provider might have produced hostility in these children and caused them to leave the home prematurely.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study was to determine the reasons why employed children in families receiving Aid to Dependent Children leave home. The children in the study were between sixteen and eighteen years of age, fully employed and ineligible for ADC. The focus of the study was on the children who left the home. The children who remained in the home were included in the study principally for the purpose of comparing the two groups on a number of common factors.

At the time of the study, the policy of Cook County Department of Welfare was to budget the entire earnings of ineligible children in ADC families. An allowance was deducted from the child's income for his basic needs and the remainder was budgeted toward the needs of the family. It was felt that this policy provided little incentive for the child to remain in his home and actually defeated the philosophy of the ADC Program, which, according to the Illinois Public Aid Commission, was set up for . . . "strengthening the family unit."<sup>3</sup> Since many of the children left their homes between

---

<sup>3</sup>The Public Assistance Code of Illinois and Related Laws Affecting Public Aid, 1949-51

the ages of sixteen and eighteen, a logical question in the minds of many welfare workers was: is the plan of budgeting earnings a causative factor in the premature leaving of home?

Five students of Loyola University Graduate School of Social Work began in October, 1953, to study the reasons why some of the children left their homes. The ADC records of the Cook County Department of Welfare were used.

### Results of the Study:

The results of the study will be presented in the form of answers to the two questions raised in the "Purpose of the Study."

#### 1. Why did the children leave home prematurely?

The interest here is in those reasons which were recorded in the case records as explicitly given to the caseworker either by the child or the grantee. The item on the schedule was marked as "not recorded" if the reason was not explicitly recorded, even though it might have been implied. The reasons were as follows:

Objection to contribution - Fourteen of the children in Group A left the home because of objection to the contribution plan which existed at the time of study.

Marriage - Four children left the home for the natural reason of marriage.

Military Service - One child left the home for the natural reason of military service.

The study did not attempt to determine whether the objection to the contribution plan was related to the other possible reasons for

departure; whether or not, the contribution plan was a causative factor in the negative behavior of the child which affected his relationship with the grantee, and caused the child to depart from the home. However, the members of the research group felt that the objection to the contribution plan was a contributing factor for departure from Group A homes.

2. What differences can be found between the group which left the home and the group which remained at home? An attempt was made to determine whether or not there was any factor or group of factors which was preponderant in the group of children who departed from the home than in the group which remained in the home. The comparison of the two groups could not, because of limitations, include the less tangible elements such as the nature of the interpersonal relationships among the members of the ADC family.

Comparison and correlation of the many factors showed almost no significant difference between the two groups. They were almost identical on the following factors:

Living space

Type of dwelling

The length of time the family was receiving ADC

Reason for grant

Relationship to grantee

The ages of the children

Amount of earnings



### Actual contribution

There was a slight difference between the two groups on the following factors:

Age of grantee - The grantees in the homes where the children departed from home, tended to be older.

Siblings - There was a larger number of natural siblings in the homes where the children departed. When half siblings were also present, the employed child left the home.

Composition of the family - Adult relatives who were not fully employed were found in homes where the children departed.

Education - The children who had the lowest educational achievement tended to leave the home prematurely.

Length of full time employment - The children who left the home were employed full time for longer periods.

Granting that the research process in compiling and comparing the information about these factors was valid, the conclusion must be that these factors do not explain adequately why some fully employed children in ADC families remain in the home and why some depart from home. The adequate reason must be sought elsewhere.

### Significance of the Study:

1. This study indicates that the contribution plan was a factor in causing many employed children to leave home. The explicit statements of "objection to the contribution plan" can substantiate the belief that this reason was involved with the other specifically recorded reasons.

2. This study indicates that the objection to the budgeting of earnings was not the cause for departure from home. The actual cause seems to be a poor interpersonal relationship between the working child and the members of the family. The budgeting plan seems to have added to the friction in the home.

The policy on budgeting earnings should receive continued consideration as a means of rehabilitating the family units. It is possible that the revision of January, 1954 might be a step toward advancement in this area. However, a more liberal allowance for the employed child is not the only remedy for rehabilitation. The findings showed that the policy was accepted in homes where children remained in the home and where interpersonal relationships were more wholesome. Thus, it can be concluded that the remedy might be found in the quality and quantity of casework services to all ADC families and that emphasis should be place on maintaining closer relationships within the family.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### I. SECONDARY SOURCES

Cook County Department of Welfare, Manual of Policy and Procedure, 1953.

Illinois Public Aid Commission, Official Bulletin, Chicago, Illinois, 1954.

Illinois Public Aid Commission, The Public Assistance Code of Illinois and Related Laws Affecting Public Aid, Springfield Illinois, 1949-51.

## APPENDIX I

MEMORANDUM TO SUPERVISING CASEWORKERS AT THE COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT  
OF WELFARE REGARDING THE NEW METHOD FOR COMPILING CASE RECORDS TO  
BE USED IN THIS STUDY;

To: Supervising Caseworkers  
Re: Study by Loyola University  
\*\*\* School of Social Work

\*\*\*\*\*  
The attached forms are to be completed by workers in your unit.  
These forms are being made as part of a study which Loyola  
University School of Social Work is making.

The need for such a study came about because of concern over  
statements which have been made to the effect that working children  
in ADC families were leaving the home as a result of agency policy  
relating to allowances for working children.

The study is interested in those cases in which there is a child  
16 years of age or over, employed full-time who,

- 1) Either resides in the home;
- 2) Or, who departed from home for any reason, at any period  
during the time the family was in receipt of ADC.

Some workers will immediately know if they have such cases in their  
caseload.

If the worker does not know immediately, the following method is  
recommended:

- a.) Consult the Statistical Cards. Pick out those in  
which the ADC grantee is 30 years of age or over.  
(Grantee is born prior to January 1, 1923)
- b.) The worker may know whether some of these cases have  
such children as described above.
- c.) Consult the case record for the remainder.

In case of any doubt-e.g. whether the child is fully employed,

whether he falls within the scope of this study--list the name and the case number in column three.

If any cases listed on the form are on the desk of the worker, they should be sent to the Supervising Caseworker, with the form, in order that they may be available for reading by Loyola University students.

\_\_\_\_\_, Supervisor

**I**

16 YEARS OR OLDER,  
FULLY EMPLOYED AND RESIDING  
AT HOME

**II**

16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER,  
FULLY EMPLOYED, WHO DEPARTED  
FROM HOME FOR ANY REASON, AT  
ANY TIME WHILE FAMILY WAS IN  
RECEIPT OF ADC

**III**

DOUBTFUL CASES  
.

## APPENDIX II

### SCHEDULE

#### I. CASE INFORMATION

- A. Researcher: \_\_\_\_\_  
B. District Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
    1. Lower North                      4. South Central  
    2. Midwest                        5. Southern  
    3. Northern                       6. Western  
C. Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
D. Number of schedules: \_\_\_\_\_

#### II. THE HOME

- E. Birthday of Grantee: \_\_\_\_\_  
F. Relationship of employed child to homemaker:  
    1. Son                              5. Grandson  
    2. Daughter                       6. Granddaughter  
    3. Nephew                         7. Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
    4. Niece  
G. Race: 1. White 2. Negro 3. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
          4. Not Recorded  
H. Religion: 1. Catholic 2. Protestant 3. Jewish 4. Other  
I. Reason for grant  
    1. Father deceased                7. Parents separated  
    2. Mother deceased               8. Parents divorced  
    3. Mother deserted               9. Mother unmarried  
    4. Father deserted               10. Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
    5. Father incapacitated  
    6. Mother incapacitated  
J. Number of natural brothers and sisters (under 18, not fully employed) of employed child:  
K. Number of half brothers and sisters (under 18, not fully employed) of employed child:  
L. Number of children employed full time:  
    1. Remaining home:  
    2. Departed from home:  
M. Current total ADC grant:  
N. How long receiving ADC (in years)?  
O. Number of people in home: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of bedrooms \_\_\_\_\_

## P. Type of home:

1. Single unit
2. 2-4 unit
3. Apartment house (5 or more)
4. Public housing project
5. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## III. WORKING CHILD IN HOME

- Q. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
- R. Number of school grades completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- S. Length of full-time employment (in months): \_\_\_\_\_
- T. Earnings per month: \_\_\_\_\_
- U. Amount of earnings contributed to family: \_\_\_\_\_ Not recorded \_\_\_\_\_

## IV. DEPARTED WORKING CHILD

- V. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
- W. Age at time of departure: \_\_\_\_\_
- X. Number of school grades completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Y. How long did he contribute to the family prior to departure: (in months) \_\_\_\_\_
- Z. Earnings at time of departure: \_\_\_\_\_
- AA. Amount of earnings contributed to family at time of departure: \_\_\_\_\_
- BB. Is he contributing now as a legally responsible relative?
1. Yes \_\_\_\_\_
  2. No \_\_\_\_\_
  3. How much \_\_\_\_\_
- CC. Reasons stated in case record for departure from family:
1. Not recorded
  2. Marriage
  3. Moved in with relatives
  4. Objected to contribution
  5. Military service
  6. Deserted
  7. Other
- DD. Reason for objections (quote from records)
- EE. Was contribution plan discussed with child? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- FF. By whom: 1. Homemaker \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Caseworker \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Both \_\_\_\_\_